AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An information service method for providing information via a network including a first information-processing apparatus and a second information-processing apparatus, said information service method comprising steps of:

inputting identification information of a product for purchase from a user of said network to said first information-processing apparatus;

inputting an order for a surrogate investigation of said product from said user to said first information-processing apparatus;

transmitting identification information of said user, identification information of said product, and an instruction on said surrogate investigation from said first information-processing apparatus to said second information-processing apparatus;

storing said user identification information and said product identification information in said second information-processing apparatus;

calling said product identification information from said second information-processing apparatus to identify said product so as to conduct an a physical investigation of said identified product by an appointed investigation agent; and

providing information obtained from said investigation to said user identified on the basis of said user identification information.

Claim 2 (Original): An information service method as defined in claim 1, which further includes a step of publishing information for designating a store and information about products dealt by said store on said network including said first and second information-processing apparatuses, wherein said user identifies a product for purchase among said published products.

Claim 3 (Original): An information service method as defined in claim 1 or 2, wherein said step of inputting an order for a surrogate investigation includes designating the level of said investigation or a deadline for the answer of said investigation.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): An information service system for providing information via a network, said information service system comprising: a first information-processing apparatus and a second information-processing apparatus,

said first information-processing apparatus including[[,]] :

means for acquiring identification information of a product for purchase and an order of a surrogate investigation of said product, from said user of said network, and

means for transmitting identification information of said user, identification information of said product, and an instruction of said surrogate investigation, to said second information-processing apparatus; and

said second information-processing apparatus including[[,]] :

means for storing said user identification information and said product identification information with a certain association therebetween, and

means for providing information about a result of ~~an~~ a physical investigation by an appointed investigation agent to said user, said investigation being related to said product identified on the basis of said information stored in said storing means.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An information service system as defined in claim 4, wherein said acquiring means is operable to acquire the identification information of a product for purchase and the order in parallel with publishing information for designating a store and information about products dealt by said store on said network to provide ~~them~~ said products to said user.

Claim 6 (Original): An information service system as defined in claim 4 or 5, wherein said acquiring means is operable to acquire designated information about the level of said investigation or a deadline for the answer of said investigation from said user.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A server apparatus to be connected to an information-processing terminal via a network, said information-processing terminal including:

means for acquiring identification information of a product for purchase and an order for a surrogate investigation of said product, from ~~said~~ a user of said network; and

means for transmitting identification information of said user, identification information

of said product and an instruction of said surrogate investigation, to said server ~~system~~ <u>apparatus</u>,

and wherein

said server ~~system~~ <u>apparatus</u> comprises:

means for storing said user identification information and said product identification

information with a certain association therebetween; and

means for providing information about a result of ~~an~~ <u>a physical</u> investigation by an

appointed investigation agent to said user, said investigation being related to said product

identified on the basis of said information stored in said storing means.

Claim 8   (Currently Amended):   <u>The server apparatus of claim 7, wherein a</u> [[A]]

computer readable ~~media~~ <u>medium</u> storing a program to be read in and executed on a computer <u>is</u>

<u>used</u> to implement the server apparatus ~~as defined in claim~~ 7.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): An information-processing terminal to be connected to a

server apparatus via a network, said server apparatus including:

means for storing identification information of a user of said network and identification

information of a product for purchase with a certain association therebetween; and

means for providing information about a result of ~~an~~ a physical investigation by an

appointed investigation agent to said user, said investigation being related to said product

identified on the basis of said information stored in said storing means, and wherein

said information-processing terminal comprises:

means for acquiring identification information of a product for purchase and an order for

a surrogate investigation of said product, from said user of said network; and

means for transmitting said identification information of said user, said identification

information of said product and an instruction on said surrogate investigation, to said server

apparatus.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The information processing terminal of claim 9,

wherein a [[A]] computer readable ~~media~~ medium storing a program to be read in and executed

on a computer is used to implement the information-processing terminal ~~as defined in claim 9~~.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): An information service method comprising the steps of:

acquiring identification information of an applicant for purchase and of a product for

purchase designated by said applicant via a network;

storing said acquired identification information;

acquiring an order for a surrogate investigation of said product from said applicant via

said network; and

providing information obtained from ~~an~~ <u>a physical</u> investigation of said ~~the~~ product by an

appointed investigation agent, to said applicant on a basis of the stored identification information

<u>via said network</u>.